

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

AGR-20 FEAE-00 NEA-14 ACDA-19 CEA-02 STR-08 INT-08

AEC-11 FPC-01 SCI-06 EA-11 DRC-01 /268 W

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R 121442Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9441

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, DA, GW, EEG, FR

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SUBJ: CHIRAC AND SCHMIDT VISITS

REF: COPENHAGEN 2095, 2105, 2107, 2115, 2127

SUMMARY: SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL SAYS THAT EUROPEAN AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DOMINATED THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS OF FRENCH PREMIER CHIRAC AND GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN DENMARK (SEE SEPTTEL FOR DISCUSSION WITH CHIRAC ON REPLACEMENT FIGHTER PLANE). SCHMIDT WAS MORE SKEPTICAL THAN CHIRAC AS TO UTILITY OF ANY EC SUMMIT MEETING THIS FALL BUT HE DID NOT RULE ONE OUT. CHIRAC STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, WITH WHICH DANES GENERALLY AGREE, BUT WOULD NOT YIELD TO DANISH RUGING THAT FRANCE SHOULD COOPERATE IN ENERGY POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. ECONOMIC ISSUES. MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN GAVE DCM FILL-IN AUGUST 9 ON RECENT VISITS OF CHIRAC AND SCHMIDT. HE SAID THAT, IN GENERAL, EUROPEAN PROBLEMS WERE THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF DISCUSSION IN CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH LEADERS. CHIRAC AND DANISH PRIME MINISTER HARTLING HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION. THE DANES HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO FIND THAT CHIRAC HAD SAID HE WAS IN FAVOR OF BEGINNING WITH COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC POLICY AND HAD PLACED CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON THIS. JORGENSEN RECALLED THAT THE FRENCH TRADITIONALLY, AND TO SOME EXTENT THE DANES, HAD FELT THAT PROGRESS TOWARD UNION MUST BEGIN IN THE MONETARY FIELD, UNLIKE THE GERMANS WHO HAD ALWAYS FAVORED COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY FIRST. CHIRAC HAD ALSO SAID, WITH REGARD TO MONETARY COOPERATION, THAT THE EC NINE SHOULD TRY TO OBTAIN A LOAN IN ARAB COUNTRIES. IF THE COMMUNITY ASKED FOR A LOAN IT COULD PROBABLY BE OBTAINED, WHEREAS THE WEAKER MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET ONE FROM THE ARABS THROUGH INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS. THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR, FOR HIS PART, HAD UNDERLINED THE NECESSITY FOR EACH COUNTRY TO TAKE MEASURES TO BRING ITS ECONOMY INTO BALANCE. THE DANES HAD RESPONDED THAT THE PRESENT GOVT IN COPENHAGEN HAD THE POLITICAL WILL TO TAKE THE REQUIRED MEASURES (COMMENT: A RATHER BRAVE STATEMENT FOR A GOVT WHICH CONTROLS ONLY 22 SEATS OUT OF 179 IN PARLIAMENT.)

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BUT ADDED THAT IMPROVEMENT HERE WOULD NECESSITATE AN INCREASE IN DANISH EXPORTS, WHICH COULD NOT BE REALISTICALLY EXPECTED WITH THE FRG CONTINUING TO FOLLOW A DEFLATIONARY POLICY. SCHMIDT HAD ANSWERED THAT INFLATION WAS A POLITICAL ISSUE IN THE FRG WHICH ANY GOVT MUST TRY TO CONTROL. NONETHELESS HE SAID THAT HE COULD SEE THAT THE FRG WOULD HAVE A CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS FIELD. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT THEY MIGHT

BE ABLE TO EASE CREDIT RESTRICTIONS IN A FEW MONTHS AND TO INCREASE PUBLIC INVESTMENT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT CONVINCED OF THE WISDOM OF EITHER OF THESE STEPS. SCHMIDT HAD EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS SKEPTICAL ON THE IDEA OF A EC LOAN FROM THE ARABS. HE THOUGHT THIS MUST BE ONE OF THE IDEAS OF THE "BRIGHT BOYS" IN BRUSSELS.

2. AGRICULTURE POLICY: THE DANES HAD TOLD CHIRAC THAT THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED IN THE RECENT UNILATERAL STEPS WHICH THE FRENCH GOVT HAD TAKEN TO PROTECT FRENCH FARMERS. CHIRAC HAD REJOINED THAT FRANCE WOULD STICK TO THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, WHICH IT CONSIDERED THE CORNERSTONE OF ITS COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER EC MEMBERS. FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS, HOWEVER, THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN NECESSARY. FRANCE HAD HAD THE CHOICE, HE EXPLAINED, OF IMPOSING THESE RESTRICTIONS OR OF CHANGING ITS TAX LEGISLATION. THE LATTER WOULD HAVE HELPED THE FARMERS BUT HURT ITS PARTNERS IN THE OTHER COMMUNITY COUNTRIES. HE REASSURED THE DANES THAT THE RESTRICTIONS WERE A ONE-TIME AFFAIR AND WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. THE DANES HAD AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CAP BUT SAID THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OUTWARD-LOOKING POLICIES AMONG THE NINE IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD. JORGENSEN SAID THEIR IMPRESSION HAD BEEN THAT THE NEW FRENCH GOVT WAS PERHAPS NOT AS NEGATIVE AS THE PREVIOUS FRENCH GOVT HAD BEEN IN THIS REGARD.

3. EC SUMMIT: THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE TO PRESIDE OVER A SUMMIT DURING THEIR PRESIDENCY, JORGENSEN SAID. CHIRAC HAD ADMITTED THAT IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO HOLD A SUMMIT IF THERE WAS NO PROSPECT OF REACHING SOME AGREEMENT. BOTH THE FRENCH AND THE DANES AGREED THAT MUCH DEPENDED ON THE RESULTS OF THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

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SCHMIDT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS FRANKLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF HOLDING AN EC SUMMIT THIS YEAR SINCE HE DOUBTED SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT SUBJECTS COULD BE FOUND WHICH WOULD BE RIPE FOR DECISION AT THE TOP LEVEL.

4. ENERGY: THE DANES URGED THE FRENCH TO JOIN IN COOPERATING WITH THE 12 MEMBERS OF THE ECG. IT BECAME CLEAR, JORGENSEN SAID, THAT FOR A NUMBER OF POLITICAL REASONS THE FRENCH WERE NOT PREPARED TO DO SO AT THIS TIME. NEVERTHELESS, THE DANES RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT WELL BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN THE FUTURE. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS IN COPENHAGEN THEY WOULD NOT DEFINE WHAT SORT OF COOPERATION THEY THOUGHT POSSIBLE BUT SAID THEY WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE WORKED OUT UNDER OECD AUSPICES. JORGENSEN SENSED THAT THE FRENCH

HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE POINT OF POLITICAL DECISION AS TO HOW THEY WANT TO SEE ENERGY COOPERATION COME OUT.

5. COMMENT: DETAILS ON THE SCHMIDT VISIT ARE STILL RATHER SKETCHY BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT NO OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED AND, APPARENTLY, BECAUSE OF THE DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO HOLD THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS CLOSELY. JORGENSEN DID REVEAL THAT THE SCHMIDT VISIT HAD BEEN HASTILY ARRANGED AS THE RESULT OF A PHONE CALL FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S AIDE. FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN OF THEIR TALKS, IT APPEARS THAT SCHMIDT'S PURPOSE MAY HAVE BEEN TO ENCOURAGE THE DANISH GOVT IN THE STEPS IT IS PLANNING TO TAKE TO DEAL WITH THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC ISSUES FACING THIS COUNTRY. IF THIS WAS INDEED THE CHANCELLOR'S PURPOSE, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE HELPFUL IF HE HAD HAD A QUIET WORD WITH SOME OF HIS FELLOW SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HERE, BECAUSE WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT HARTLING IS SEVERELY LIMITED IN WHAT HE CAN DO. BOTH DANISH AND GERMAN SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THAT THERE WAS NO CONTACT BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. THE HARTLING GOVT WILL NOW WAIT TO SEE WHETHER SCHMIDT WILL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR DENMARK (AND OTHERS) TO EXPORT TO THE FRG. THE CHIRAC VISIT BROUGHT FEW SURPRISES, ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT OF A PERSONAL SUCCESS FOR THE PREMIER. HE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED THOSE WHO MET HIM AND TOOK NO INTRANSIGENT POSITIONS, EXCEPT PERHAPS ON THE CAP. CONFIDENTIAL

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JORGENSEN REMARKED THAT THE DANES WERE A LITTLE SURPRISED THAT CHIRAC HAD ACCEPTED THEIR INVITATION SO QUICKLY AND THAT HE HAD CHOSEN DENMARK FOR HIS FIRST OFFICIAL FOREIGN VISIT. THEY WERE ALSO PLEASED, HE ADDED. CROW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, AIRCRAFT SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH02174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740220-0979
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740856/aaaabvzg.tel
Line Count: 206
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COPENHAGEN 2095, 2105, 2107, 2115, 2, 127
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHIRAC AND SCHMIDT VISITS
TAGS: MASS, BEXP, DA, FR, (CHIRAC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005